

Thursday, January 22, 2009
BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING, STANDARDS, & EDUCATION
WSCJTC • E-154
10:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Members Present:

David Ellis, Deputy, Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Duane Kist, Officer, Kennewick Police Department
Linda Pillo, Chief, Bellevue Police Department
Martin Anderson, Sergeant, Spokane Police Department
Michael Evans, Chief, Squaxin Island Tribal Police Department
Mike Brasfield (Chair), Sheriff, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Mike Gaffney, Professor, Washington State University
Mike Harum (Vice Chair), Sheriff, Chelan County Sheriff's Office
Robert Maule, Sergeant, Tacoma Police Department
Robert Perales, Chief, Granger Police Department

WSCJTC Staff Present:

Rex Caldwell, Commander, Basic Law Enforcement Academy
Michael Parsons, Executive Director
Steve Lettic, Assistant Manager, ODS
Tisha Ehret, Assistant to the Commander, Basic Law Enforcement Academy

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The **Chair**, called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 10:00 AM.

Introduction followed.

Approval of Notes of the October 16, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

Motion was moved (Professor Gaffney) and seconded (Officer Kist). The motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION, WSCJTC REPORTS AND UPDATES

Legislative Discussion

Michael Parsons, Executive Director

The **Executive Director** explained that the Commission is supporting the request to have 30 classes funded through the legislative process. While conducting their forecast, the Office of Financial Management (OMF) found that 30 classes are needed to meet the needs of the Washington State law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the request for funding, the Commission is involved with three bills:

1. **HB 1194 & SB 5131** – Crisis Referral Service, SAFECALL

This bill is designed to provide a confidential outlet for emergency services personnel if they find themselves in a crisis and do not want to go to their Chief Executive Officer.

The Commission will provide a one-hour online training program on how to recognize signs of personal crises, such as stress or substance abuse, among their peers. In order to provide this training, the Commission is requesting \$25,000 to cover the cost.

2. **HB 1324 & SB 5157** – Peace Officer

This bill has its first hearing next week (January 27, 2009).

3. **HB 1325 & SB 5156** – Modify Hearing Board

This bill is to modify the Hearings Boards to allow the law enforcement officers from the Port of Seattle and the Department Fish and Wildlife participate in the hearings process.

Although there is not a bill at this time, there has been a request to credit police officers for their reserve and basic training towards college. This bill is in the beginning stages and the Director is not sure where it will go at this time; although he feels this is a good idea.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy

Rex Caldwell, BLEA Commander

The Commander introduced himself and explained that the last two “traditional” curriculum classes will be graduating in the next couple weeks. All future classes will be using the Problem Based Learning (PBL) curriculum.

Currently, the waiting list is at one class. We currently have spaces available in the March class; furthermore, some applicants that showed up to the last physical ability test (PAT) were not prepared and left some openings.

The BLEA has received donations of vehicles, radios, and firearms from various law enforcement agencies. These donations have helped the students to have a more realistic training atmosphere.

The BLEA has two TAC Officers returning to their home agencies; Officer Kenneth Henson, Lakewood PD, and Corporal David Deffenbaugh, Bellevue PD. On the other hand, Officer Michael O’Neill, Olympia PD will join the staff in February.

With the expectation of 30 classes, the BLEA is in the process of establishing a hiring process for TAC Officers.

Chief Linda Pillo asked what the PAT consists of. The **Commander** explained the four events of 300 meter sprint, push-ups, sit-ups, 1.5 mile run. The applicant must score a minimum of 160 points, the maximum points allowed is 200 points. Although applicants may re-test in the push-up and sit-up event (only if they fail), the applicant is not afforded the opportunity to re-test in the running events. **Sergeant Martin Anderson** added that he has noticed that some people train for each event separately, as opposed to as a complete test.

Sheriff Mike Harum asked the Commander to explain what happens after the test is completed. The **Commander** explained there is a paperwork orientation in addition to a 20-minute example of the physical training the recruit will experience while attending the academy. Also at this time, students are issued pre-course work that the student will be tested on within the first two-weeks of the academy.

The Board supports the orientation process and a short discussion regarding the orientation process was held and tabled.

Reserve Academy

Tisha Ehret, Basic Law Enforcement Academy

Ms. Ehret asked the Board to assist her in updating WAC 139-05-820, Basic Reserve Academy Law Enforcement Certificate of Equivalency. She explained that there were 12 academies held last year and each of those academies were provided new curriculum to teach. However, not all academies chose to use the curriculum and therefore many tests were failed.

Through researching the test scores, it was found that there were three major issues that had to be addressed before the next set of curriculum was provided to those who planned on sponsoring reserve academies: although the material was provided, not all instructors chose to

teach it; some material was not provided; and some of the wording in the test questions was not clear enough.

After reviewing the results, curriculum updates were made, the WSCJTC created instructor guides for each core block of instruction; a reserve academy commander guideline/timeline was created; and each academy is required to submit a class schedule. By submitting a class schedule, regional training managers or other WSCJTC staff can coordinate times to visit the academies while they are in session.

Ms. Ehret added that as of now there is not an equivalency process available. She asked that the Board review the draft of WAC 139-05-820 and provide her with input during the January meeting. Her goal is to forward the BLETSE approved WAC to the Commission, for final approval, next year.

Ms. Ehret also thanked three WSCJTC employees for all of their help in updating the curriculum and academy format; TaraShea Nesbit, Nichol Girtten, and Seth Grant.

The **Chair** added that currently there is no way to track when reserve officers are hired or transferred. Although agencies are required to submit a Notice of Hire/Termination to the Commission when it comes to full-time officers, there is nothing in place for reserve officers.

SPECIAL REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Longitudinal Study

Professor Mike Gaffney, Washington State University

Professor Gaffney provided the Board with a Draft of the questionnaire/survey to be provided with the exiting recruits. The goal is to have this survey replace not only the current exit questionnaire, but to provide information for the Study. [For a copy of the handout, please contact Tisha Ehret at tehret@cjtc.state.wa.us.] Professor Gaffney asked the Board to provide him with any feedback as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chair reiterated that the Committee's are self-driven and are expected to gather their information during the time between the quarterly meetings. The Chairs of the committee are to use the allotted committee report time to provide progress reports and seek information.

Standards Committee – Chair, Sheriff Mike Harum, Sergeant Robert Maule, and Chief Linda Pillo

Sheriff Harum reported that he has been in contact with the Retirement Systems and is working with them to see if there is a way to link their information with the Certification process. In addition, the Committee is looking at ways to encourage agencies to use the Notice of Hire form as required by the Commission.

Training Committee – Chair, Deputy Dave Ellis, Professor Michael Gaffney, Officer Duane Kist, and Sheriff Gerald Weeks

Deputy Ellis explained the Committee was tasked to look into the minimum qualifications required of a Sheriff. Currently there is not a whole lot required, this is with exception of obtaining certification with the initial 12-months of being appointed. Through feedback, the committee is looking at a few options; option one – leave things as they are, option two – change the RCW to require the Sheriff's to complete a polygraph and psychological evaluation and obtain a letter from the Commission stating the incumbent is eligible for certification prior to filing for office, option three – "California" option. Option three includes option two and a sliding scale for education requirements. For example, if the incumbent has a Masters degree, one year of law enforcement is required; Bachelors degree, two years of law enforcement and so on.

The **Chair** recommended re-approaching this process sometime in May. He added that he does not foresee any major setbacks that prevent this recommendation from being forwarded to the Commission to be voted on.

The Committee has invited Jeff Carroll, Lakewood PD, to the next meeting to discuss his study finding on the benefits of Police Training Officer (PTO) program versus Field Training Officer (FTO) program.

The **Commander** added that the Commission has employees reaching out to the various agencies and providing information about the PTO program.

Education Committee – Chair, Sergeant Martin Anderson, Chief Linda Pillo, Chief Mike Evans, Chief Denis Austin, and Professor Linda Forst

Sergeant Anderson reported that the committee was tasked to review/look at the current equivalency academy; review the proposed draft of the Basic Reserve Academy Law Enforcement Certificate of Equivalency – WAC 139-05-820; explore/Look at – how we keep track/notification of Reserve officers – change of status

Review/look at the current equivalency academy

Positive feedback: Washington state law, search and seizure, patrol procedures and case law. Handouts are helpful and some still use them. This subject is the most important aspect of the academy as the law and verbiage is quite different in other states. Even more emphasis should be done in this area. In regards to the criminal law and criminal procedures, because of the differences from state to state this can be a big issue officer. Officer polled, felt this should be the focus and it should be some classroom and then some practical's right after to reinforce the concepts.

Negative feedback: Either the defensive tactics training should be eliminated completely or it should become effective training. The current DT class seems unplanned. Patrol procedures were too basic. The course is too long – could be condensed to one week.

Proposed changes: Any new equivalency must address the issue of class size – (i.e. at times 60 + students can be in one equivalency class) any class should be no more than about 25 to 30 students. Either that or the student teacher ratio needs to be added to. There needs to be some checks and balances if on line learning is to be used.

The **Chair** asked if the Commission can provide agencies with a list of approved POST academies from other states. The **Chair** suggested posting this information on the CJTC website. Mr. Lettic and Ms. Ehret are working on establishing this list.

The Board agreed to make this topic one of the primary objectives to complete within the next few meetings. The Committee will continue to work with the Commission to work out the performance objectives for the Equivalency Academy.

Review of the proposed draft of the Basic Reserve Academy Law Enforcement Certificate of Equivalency – WAC 139-05-820

The committee found the WAC, as presented, to be well thought out and sound.

Explore/look at – how to keep track of notification of Reserve Officers – change of status

The committee has not addressed this task.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the upcoming retirement of the Chair, the Board held elections for Chair and Vice Chair. **Chief Evans** nominated Sheriff Harum as Chair, **Chief Pillo** seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Deputy Ellis** nominated Professor Gaffney at Vice Chair, **Chief Evans** seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2009 10:00 AM WSCJTC – Room: E-154

Minutes written by:

Tisha Ehret, Recorder

Reviewed by:

Sonja Hirsch, Confidential Secretary